/Saudi

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

6 February 1984

Mr Altaf Gauhar
South Magazine

Dear brother Altaf,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

After the highly controversial 8.5 billion dollar AWACS deal which Saudi Arabia signed with the United States, comes the news of a 4 billion dollar arms deal which Saudi Arabia signed with France last month. In addition, Saudi Arabia is also reported to be negotiating another multi-billion dollar deal with the United States for an air defence communications network for the Kingdom. Efforts are also under way to buy yet more highly sophisticated arms, worth billions of dollars, from West Germany and the United Kingdom. According to newspaper reports, Saudi Arabia's defence spending now equals 50 per cent of the combined defence spending of all the Third World countries. And yet the defence capability of Saudi Arabia remains marginal.

Concerned at the unbridled Saudi defence spending which, you will agree, constitutes a callous waste of funds, the Islamic Council has issued a press statement, a copy of which I enclose.

Knowing your keen interest in and your bold and objective views on issues concerning the Third World, I hope you will analyse and comment on the huge Saudi arms purchases, and the real motives behind them, in the next issue of "South".

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ebrahimsa Mohamad
Executive Secretary

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